NATIONAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

THE ALASKA SEAL FISHERY INQUIRY. THE CHARGES OF CONGRESSMAN HENLEY DENIED

-MR. HEWITT SUGGESTS A TRIP TO ALASKA. INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBENE. WASHINGTON, March 28,-The House Ways and Means Committee to-day listened to statements and arguments by Congressman Henley, of California, in favor of the investigation proposed by his resolution into the affairs of the Alaska Commercial Company. The movement for an investigation seems to be instigated by ertain persons in California who are anxious to obtain themselves the advantages and profits now enjoyed by the Alaska Commercial Company,

for themselves the advantages and profits bow enjoyed by the Alaska Commercial Company, which seems to be making a great deal of money, and by a few Democratic politicians who hope rather than expect to make some political capital out of the investigation. The only new charge made is that the company is clandestinely killing more seals than the contract allows and is defrauding the Government of a portion of its just royalty.

General Jeffries, the stiorney of the company, replied to the statements made by the California Congressman. He showed that every charge except the one mentioned had been thoroughly investigated and provent to be false. The matters set forth in the petition presented as the basis for the resolution. General Jeffries said, related to a condition of affairs alieged to have existed fourteen years ago, when the lease to the Alaska Commercial Company was first excented. He denied, with great energy, the statement that any see is are killed in excess of the number allowed by the contract, and he also denied the allegation that the company is seffing its scalskins in London at \$24 ench. The price, he said, has advanced since the company began operations, but the present price of skins is only one-half the same claimed by Mr. Henley.

Mr. Hewitt suggested that the Ways and Means Committee embark on a Government vessel, go to the Scal Islands, and make a personal investigation of the affairs of the company. He wanted to know what would be the best scaled for such a vorage, and was informed by Professor Elliott that it ought to be made in June. The Henley resolution will be referred to a sub-committee for further inquiry.

NEWSPAPER COPYRIGHT.

NEWSPAPER COPYRIGHT.

ME. WATTERSON PRESENTS ENGLISH AND AMERICAN

DECISIONS ON THE SUBJECT. Washington, March 28 .- The House Judiclary Committee to-day heard Henry Watterson in explanation and advocacy of the proposed Eight-hour News Copyright bill. There was a full attendance, and the members of the committee manifested much interest in the topic of inquiry. Mr. Watterson's presentation of the matter was substantially identical with his argument be fore the Joint Library Committee on March 14, except that he to-day submitted the following comprehensive statement of the principles of the adjudicated cases on

the subject:

Whether in England copyright existed at all in newspapers seems to have been doubted by Lord Chelmsford in Plant agt. Walker (17 Law Times, N. S. 159), referring to the language of Kulght Bruce, L. J., in exparte foss; although in the latter case Turner, L. J., considered copyright in a newspaper as a right which undoubtedly exists. But the doubt was set at rest by Vice-Chancellor Malins in the case of Cox agt, the Land and Water Company (L. R. 9, eg. 324), who decided the question, remarking that the idea of there being no copyright at all in newspaper articles was repurguant to common sense and common honesty. He said: "Now suppose, for instance, the proprietor of a newspaper employed and sent abroad at great expense, makes communications to a newspaper which are highly appreciated by the public; can it be said that another newspaper, published, perhans, in the evening of the same day, may take and publish those communications in extenso, with or without acknowledgment?. "If that is the law it is a monstrous state of law, repugnant to common sense and common honesty, because that there is a property in these articles there can be no shadow of doubt." After showing by reference to other decisions [Maylew vs. Maxwell, I. Jand H. 312; Strahan vs. Graham, a decision of his own affirmed by the Lord Chancellor; Sweet vs. Benning, 16 C. B. 458.] that registration was not necessary to secure the right, he concluded as follows: "Though it is seldom worth the white of proprietors to assert the copyright in articles in a newspaper. I am of opinion that, whether it be the letters of a correspondent abroad, or the publication of a tale, or a treatise, or the review of a book, or whatever else he acquires—I will not say as copyright but as property as well entitle him, if he thinks it worth while, to probibit any other person from publishing the same thing in any other newspaper. or in any other form."

The copyright in a newspaper was held to be included in the words "goods and chattels," in the 125th Sectio

ther form."
The copyright in a newspaper was held to be included a the words "goods and chattels," in the 125th Section f the Eankruptey Consolidation act of 1843. [Ex parie fora, 6, W. H. 417, citing Longman vs. Tripp, 2 Bos. & ul. (new R.) 67. Vide Kelly vs. Hutton, L. R. 3 Ch. pp. 703.]

Pul. (new R.) 67. Vide Kelly vs. Hutton, L. R. 3 Ch. App. 703.]
In the case before Lord Curriehill in Scotland, Charles Reade maintained an action against The fliasgow Herald for damages for infringement of copyright by the publication of his sketen called "A Hero and a Martyr" which appeared orginally in The Pail Mail Gazette and which The Herald had transmitted from London by its special wire for the next day's paper. (Copinger on copyright 470.)
The case of Clinton agt. Stone, [2, Paine's Cleoa't Court Reports page 382] was decided by Mr. Justice Thompson. It was an action for the penalty prescribed by the statute for an infringement of copyright. The defendants were editors and proprietors of The New Jork Commercial Advertiser, and copied into their paper the daily price current, or review of the market, compiled by the plaintiffs, daily a few hours after its appearance in each lessue of their paper. Judgment was ordered for the defendants on the ground that the case was not within the statute.

STATE RIGHTS AND MR. BLAIR'S BILL.

Washington, March 28,-The discussion of the Education bill was renewed at 2 p. m. in the Senate. Mr. Lamar spoke at length in support of the bill. He declared that he saw nothing subversive of the rights of the States in the clause of the bill provding that reading. writing and arithmetic should be taught. The bill should be considered the logical sequence of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. It would infuse new hope into the South. The idea that the appropriation was too large to be profitably used was a mistaken one. He opposed the amendment to provide that the funds should be administered by agents of the Federal Government. He cited the opinions of distinguished Northern educators who testified to the extraordinary energy shown by the South in common school education and the impartiality shewn as to the races. The amendment referred to would introduce an element of discord. Mr Cullom said that he would prefer to see the appropriation confined to the Southern States, and so adjusted as to begin with only about \$6,000,000 rise for a few years, as the money could be profitably applied. He would make the total appropriation \$40,000,000 instead of \$105,000,000. Mr. George made an elaborate argument in defence of the constitutionality of the bill. He was opposed to centralization, but he could not shut his eyes to progress. The right to secede once existed, but it was now irrevocably lost. "Those opinions," said he, "I have surrendered as constitutional theories which were respectable, but which no longer control the destinies of this great Nation. I will not pass my life in the dreamy contemplation of the besuites and excellencies of obsolete theories, now mere abstractions, and in picturing the benefits and glories which might have come from their observance. It is enough to know that they are no longer potent for the good of the ill of this Union, and while I may east a tear over their tomb, I will not spead my life in ministering at the alters which have been creeted to them." Cullom said that he would prefer to see the appropriation

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE IN ROME. Washington, March 28 .- Secretary Frelingnuysen received from Mr. Astor this evening a dispatch by cable which announced that the American College is exempted from the Propaganda sale. The attention of President Arthur was called several weeks since by Cardinal McCloskey and several other eminent Roman Catholic prelates in this country to the proposed sale, by order of the Italian Government, of the Propaganda property at Rome, nehading the American College. The property was levied upon by the Italian Government inder the laws of 1866 and 1873. Proceedings were enclosed by the lower court, but the decision was eventually reversed by the Supreme Court of the kingdom. By direction of the President, the secretary of State addressed a note to Mr. Astor, the United States Minister in Rome, I. structing him to lay the facts in the case before the Government of the Kingdom of Italy and endeavor to obtain, if not a perpetual abandonment of the impending cale, such a stay of proceedings as would enable the friends of the college in this country to determine whether any remedy could be devised. Mr. Astor was further informed that while the American College is technically heid by the Propaganda, it is virtually American property, that it has been built up and supported by money from this country, and that its sale would sacrince interests exclusively American. President Arthur was called several weeks since by

THE GREELY SEARCH REWARD.

Washington, March 28 .- The Senate to-day passed the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to issue a proclamation offering a reward of \$25,000 to be equitably paid or distributed to any ship, or ships, or person or persons, not in the military or naval service of the United States, who shall discover, or rescue, or satisfactorily ascertain the fate of the Greely expedition. The bill contains a proviso that the proclamation shall not be made in terms that would involve the United States in any future liability beyond the reward, or that would induce any unpropared vessel to incur extraordinary peril or risk; also, a proviso that the determination of the Secretary of the Navy as to the right of any person to the reward shall be conclusive upon all parties.

Captain W. B. schley, commander of the Greety relief expedition, will be detached from duly at the Navy Department on Tuesday next, and ordered to join the flag-stip Thetis at New Kork. Captain Schley has just returned to Washington from an inspection of the Thetis. He is very well pleased with the vessel and regards it as admirably adapted for the expedition in every respect. factorily ascertain the fate of the Greely expedition. The

MINOR MATTERS IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- In the Senate to-day Mr. Brown introduced a bill to require the payment of \$35,555 42 in each to reimburse the State of Georgia for expenditures made for the common defence in 1777. The bill is intended to enforce the bill pasced in 1883. It was referred to the Committee on Claims and Mr. Morgan expressed the hope that the committee would report a general bill covering all similar claims of Southern

Bills were passed for the relief of the District of Colum-Bills were passed for the relief of the Institute of Collado bia police force, authorizing the unloading in bulk of coal, sait, railread from and other like articles from vessels at other than a part of entry.

Mr. Palmer, from the Committee on Woman Suffrage, Peperted favorably a resolution proposing the following amaziment to the Constitution:

Article——SECTION I.—The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be deuied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

SEC. 2.—The Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article.

Representative Anderson introduced in the House a concurrent resolution for the final adjournment of Congress at 12 m. on June 2. It was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Bills were passed appointing John W. Saville a Passed Assistant Engineer on the retired list of the Navy, for the relief of the sureties of J. O. Rawlins and of B. F. Millard and J. H. Hammond.

Mr. O'Neill, of Pennsylvania, presented the resolution of a convention of Ways arms and the resolution of a convention of Ways arms and the resolution.

lard and J. H. Hammond.

Mr. O'Neill, of Pennsylvania, presented the resolution of a convention of wool-growers in favor of the duty on wool.

At its evening session the House passed twenty-three Pension bills. Among them was one giving a pension of \$50 per month to the widow of Major-General James Steedman, and a bill granting a pension to Mrs. Sarah E. E. Seelye, who served as a soldier for three years under the assumed name of Franklin Thompson, and, when siek and about to be sent to the hospital, deserted to escape the detection of her sex.

THE DANVILLE INVESTIGATION. Washington, March 28 .- Twenty-five witnesses, all white men, were sworn at once yesterday in the Danville investigation. William B. Kartz, a postmaster at Waynesboro, 200 miles from Danville, testified that a telegram was overheard in the town where he lived ordering a large invoice of pistols to Danville. He heard a Democratic speaker after the election say that he

it changed about 150 votes. Job Hawk-hurst, of Fairfax, said that the circular changed some votes, the Democrats voting on the race issues. C. L. Pritchard said that the circular changed some votes in the Shenandosh Valley. The Democrats represented that the negroes were rising.

The Republicans suspended examination at this point and Scuator Vance called some witnesses in rebuttal

Peter V. Booth, of Danville, described the riot, which be. gan with a fight between a colored and a white man. About one hundred and fifty colored men were gathered at the place and the witness asked them to leave, whereupon they drew pistols and refused to ro. When the firing began there were about fifteen white men and 200 colored men. The witness saw colored men fire. He denied having heard that the riot was brought about by preconcerted action. The election was quiet. He tried to get the colored men not to vote, but they refused. He denied having a pistol at the time of the firing. He kept pistols for sale and sold many before the election, and named two colored men who bought pistols of him. W. J. Dance, a member of the firm of Ruffin, Woolfolk and Blair, denied that any weapons were stored in the office or taken from there to be used. He had a double-barrelled gun and guarded the door, allowing only two or three of his friends to enter. He said that twenty-five or thirty of the black men had pistols. He could not name either white men or colored men who fired pistols. John D. Fricklin said the necroes were impudent. Two or three times they had run between him and the lady with whom he was walking. These were coessions previous to the election. W. A. Meeks acknowledged that he fired once at a crowd of negroes. gan with a fight between a colored and a white man.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- Medical Director O. P. Wales, late Surgeon-General of the Navy, has been granted a year's leave of absence, with permission to go broad. Chief Engineer Elijah Lards has been ordered abroad. Chief Engineer Elijah Lards has been ordered to the Lackawanna, per sfeamer of April 10. Lieutenant L. L. Reamey has been detached from command of the Thetis and placed on waiting orders; Ensigns J. J. Knapp and George R. Clark from the Wachusett and ordered home; Chief Engineer J. O. A. Zeigler from the Lackawanna and ordered home; Passed Engineer N. J. Lamdin from the Tallapoosa and ordered to the Wachusett to relieve Passed Assistant Engineer A. F. Dixon, who has been ordered home; Ensign C. H. Harlow from duty at the Smithsonian Institution and ordered to the Thetis.

WASHINGTON NOTES. Washington, Friday, March 28, 1884.
The Mississippi Suppresens.—The President to-day ap

proved the joint resolution for the relief of the sufferers rom the overflow of the Mississippi River. The Objectionable Congo Treatt.—The Department The Objectionable Cosso Interest. The Objective of State has received a copy of the proposed treaty between Great Britain and Portugal by which American interests on the Congo are affected. It is understood that the terms of the treaty are not in accord with the views of the President on the subject as expressed in his last annual message. The treaty will be referred to the senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

POSTAL LEGISLATION.—The House Committee on Post

POSTAL LEGISLATION.—The House Committee on Post Offices and Postroads decided to favor a bill authorizing the Postmaster General to lease first, second and third class branch post offices, and a resolution appropriating \$375,000 to be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the mail contractors in the Southern States, satisfying in full the contracts of 1852, 1859, 1860 and 1861.

INDIAN BANKERS.—The Committee on Banking and Currency authorized a favorable report on a bill amending the revised statutes so that the citizens of the five divilized nations of the Indian Territory should be permitted to form organizations under the provisions of the National banking act, their Indian blood to the contrary so withstanding.

THE MCGARRAHAN CLAIM.—The House Committee on the Judiciary agreed to report adversely on the McGarrahan claim. Two minority reports will be presented, one in favor of the claimant, the other giving him the title to the unpatenated lands in dispute and scrip at \$1.25 an acre for the value of the remainder. The tract contains 17,000 acres. The adverse report was subsequently presented in the House.

THE MEIOS CASE.—John Lawrence, First Controller of

the Treasury, has given a decision in the Meigs case that where a retired army officer is destinated by act of Congress to perform duties in connection with the crection of a public building, he has no right to compensation for such services, because he is an officer in the public service.

NEEDS OF THE PATENT OFFICE,--The House Com-NEEDS OF THE PATENT OFFICE.—The House Committee on Patents to-day visited the office of the Commissioner of Patents to see the needs of the Patent Office for additional room. It has been suggested that the entire building of the Interior Department should be devoted to the Patent Office. Members of the Committee-favor such a proposition.

STATE CLAIMS.—The House Committee on War Claims

te-day agreed to a bill authorizing the settlement of claims of the states for interest on money loaned for the defence of the Union under the Act of July 27, 1861. The bills must be presented within one year from the passage of the Act. NAVAL PROMOTIONS.—The House Committee on Naval

Affairs agreed to bills restoring Commander Henry Glass to his original relative position in the navy list next to Commander Shepard, promoting Louis C. Sarton (recired) and Thomas G. Corbin to be Rear Admirals. CONVICT LABOR.-The House Committee on Labor to

CONVICT LABOR.—The House Committee on Labor to-day authorized a favorable report on the bill prohibiting the biring out the labor of United States prisoners. Violation of the act is made a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of from \$500 to \$1,000 or imprisonment from one to two years. Mr. James has prepared a report to accompany the bill in which it is stated that in some cases persons are taken by the State prisons without cost to the Government and then inhumanly treated to make their work profitable. The contract system is condemned as wholly adverse to reform, and as injurious to hourst labor. The report of the New-York Legislative Committee is quoted as to the evils of the system.

TO ELECT AN EPISCOPAL BISHOP.

BALTIMORE, March 28 .- Since the death of Bishop Pinckney the Diocese of Maryland, including the two important cities of Washington and Baltimore, has been without a bishop. An attempt will be made to elect one by the diocesan convention which meets in May; but it is doubtful if it will succeed. The high and low church parties are about equal in numbers in the diocese, and each is determined by all fair means to elect a man satisfactory to it. The question of locality will also come up in a quiet way, many of the clergy being strongly opposed to the selection of a Northern man, while others are as strongly opposed to going South for a candidate. Among those prominently mentioned for the position are Bishop Eliot, of Western Texas, Dr. Eccleston, of Baltimore, Dr. Paret, of Washington, Dr. Pynchon, ex-president of Trinity College, and the Rev. Dr. Huntington, rector of Grace Church, in New-York.

STRANDED IN A SALT MEADOW.

With the opening of spring the Harlem River becomes the evening haunt of Morrisania lovers who hire boats and go out on the shallow waters to coo and to woo. The river is not large, and as the number of boats in reases, there is a poverty of that solitude and room which; a soul-consuming passion requires. On Tuesday night the river was crowded, and an unbroken stream of boats glided toward High Bridge. In one of them was a party o. four; two young men and a like number of young women. They sang energetically, and raced with other boats. At last they found a boat worthy of their skill, so shouting a challenge they started up the river. The two boats shot under High Bridge in a dead beat, and passed swiftly into the maze of shoals beyond. Half a mile above the bridge the cars of the challenging boat snapped, and the two couples in it were left to the mercy of the tide. They pleaded with their victorious rivals to tow them back to civilization, but to no avail, and they were left alone. After an hour's paddling with the broken cars they reached a shoal, which they took advantage of and clambered in a salt meadow, where they remained all night, at first meditating on the vicisatiodes of love-making, and later shaking the raindrops from the ends of their noses. In the morning a tag-boat came to their rescue, and the party and the beat were landed at their starting point, well laden with malaria and pneumonia. The young women have refused an invitation to go boating next Saturday night. swiftly into the maze of shoals beyond. Half a mile above

FAILURES IN THE TEA TRADE.

There was much excitement in the Importers and Grocers' Exchange yesterday, due to the fallures of L. W. Minford & Co., of No. 104 Wall-st., and Thomas B. Armitage, of No. 105 Front-st. Brokers rushed in to realize or close out on their contracts, which caused a de-

\$75,000 to \$150,000. The firm is preparing a statement, and they refused to give any estimate. It was generally stated that the causes of the failures were the backward-ness of customers in responding to the demand for margins, and the wild speculation that has been conducted for two months in the tea trade.

RAPID TRANSIT TROUBLES.

RESIGNATION OF TWO COMMISSIONERS, GIVING THEIR REASONS TO THE MAYOR-WHAT

THEIR FRILOW MEMBERS SAY. President Daniel Drake Smith and Commisioner George H. Byrd, of the Rapid Transit Commission, have sent their resignations to the Mayor. In their minority report, which accompanied their resignations, they said that they could find only a single route which, at the outset, seemed clearly to justify an affirmative decision. Thereafter the Board of Commissioners located twenty-nine separate routes for steam railways, covering neerly thanked God for the Danville riot. J. W. Simmons, of Floyd County, testified that the Danville circular was distributed extensively there and that

Mr. Byrd expressed views in regard to the resignation to the same effect. Other views were as follows:

Mr. Livermore—I think the resignation of the minority of the Beard a very strange proceeding. It may turn out to be just as it should be, but it does not seem so to me. I don't know why they should take such action. I don't know why they should take such action. I don't know why the minority in the Senate or Assembly should refuse to act or send in their resignations because the majority took some action that displeased them. We have not received official information of the resignations. The minority report was not offered in the Board before the Commissioners resigned, nor was their intention announced. The life-time of the franchises was debuted several times in the Board. It was finally decided that the grant should be for ninely-nine years.

Mr. Stewart—I don't know what to say with regard to the resignations of Commissioners Smith and Byrd. There was no intimation given by them to the other Commissioners of their intention to resign, and no objection was made by them to the proceedings of the Hoard, from which the other Commissioners could even infer that they intended to resign. Under the law the majority of the Commissioners are empowered to proceed with the business of the Commission. The Mayor has thirty days after the resignation of a Commissioner to appoint another in his place. I do not know whom he will appoint or whether he will fill the vacancies.

Mr. Earle—I do not wish to criticise Mr. Smith or Mr. Byrd; neither does it make any difference to me what tiey may say with regard to our actions. I have acted for what I thought the best interests of the city, and I am not to be deterred from doing what I think is right by any criticisms on their part or on the part of any one else. I think the facilities that we have labored to provide for the people of New-York are needed. We shall go right on with our work. We have thought that we ought to give the opportunity for these roads to be built if the

and the Grand Central depot, so that travellers can secure all their sleeping-car and other accommodations without the inconvenience of previously coming to New-York.

NATIONAL GUARD NOTES.

Company I, 7th Regiment, held its final drill of the season on Thursday evening, presenting a rank and file of ninety-five. The record of this company in attendance at drills for the season has never been equalled by any company in the National Guard. Fifty-one men have not missed a single drill, and twenty-six have missed only one drill. The average attendance has been 92 per cent. Orders have been issued by Captain Casey congratulating the company on the record it has made, and gratulating the company on the record it has made, and specially mentioning Licutequants Harper and Sage, Sergeants Chauncey, Moore, Du Val, Delafield and Gould, Corporals Lockwood, Maihallon, houtecon, liyrd, Clayton and Vali and thirty-eight others for attentiance at every driit.

The Official Register of the National Guard of the State of New-York has been received, and the Adjutant-General is complimented for the near and comprehensive manner in which the details have been arranged.

PUSHED INTO BOILING FAT.

The cries of a man apparently in great agony caused Roundsman Hatton, of the Twenty-first Precinct, to enter the kitchen of Kaufman & Weisier's Hotel, at No. 548 Third-ave., yesterday. He found Rob ert Schafer, a waiter, lying in a large vat of boiling fat, unable to extricate himself. The roundsman rescued the man and summoned an ambulance. Schafer, who was severely burned with the scalding fat, said that he had realize or close out on their contracts, which caused a de-cline of from 2 to 3 cents a pound, and there was an excited offering and bidding for seats at prices from \$200 to \$400 lower than before. Both fallares were in the tea trade. Mr. Armitage's liabilities are considered merely nominal. L. W. Minford & Co.'s are variously estimated at from

THE WHIG VICTORY IN 1848

M. RIARDY STORY OF THE GADVARIANG.

EL STORY STORY OF THE GA said that they could find only a single route which, at the outset, accessed clearly to justify an affirmative decided.

Thereafter the Board of Commissioners located twenty-nine separate routes for steam railways, covering new theory seventy miles of the public streets. Many of the routes are not legally open to the construction of railways. The retrinic Commissioners that the said said of the public streets. Many of the routes are not legally open to the construction of railways. The retrinic Commissioners have located certain rotter, designated as routes Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, 22 and 25, each and every one of which the statutes quoted of clare shall not be lawful for the Commissioners to locate." They say also that the law prolibits the construction of a steam railway on the boulevard; yet a majority of the Commissioners have located four No. 15 on the boulevard from Fifty-nintb-st. to One-hundred-and-sixty-second-st, and have taken steps to authorize a company s

the grant should be for unart-years of name to remote and and superious were selected to measure of Commissioners of Commissioners of Commissioners of Commissioners of Commissioners of Commissioners of their intertum to reside, and no objective were stated by the commission of the property of the framework of their intertum to the property of the framework of their intertum to the property of the framework of the property of t

Mr. Lawrence in an unfriendly and discourteous manner.

The situation became still further complicated. The Whigs believed they had avoided the responsibility of positive declaration on either side of the Issue canodied in the Wilmot Proviso, by selecting a military here as their candidate. In the parase of the day, he could make a 'Star and Stripe' canyass, with fair chances of success, on both sides of Mason and Dixon's line. There was loss to be incurred by either course. The Whig managers saw plainly than an anti-slavery policy would give almost the entire South to the Democrats, and a pro-slavery policy would rend the Whig party throughout the North. They wisely concluded, if the canvass were merely a game to win votes, that the non-committal plan was the safe one. But this evasive course was not wholly successful. There was a considerable body of men in New England, and especially in Massachusetts, known as "Conscience Wings," who had deep convictions on the subject of slavery, and refused to support General Tavlor. Conspicuous among these were Henry Wilson, E. Rockwood Hoar, and Charles Francis Adams. A defection of the same kind among these were Henry Wilson, E. Rockwood Hoar, and Charles Francis Adams. A defection of the same kind among the Whits of New-York was prevented by the active influence of Mr. Seward, but it developed rapidly in the northern section of Onto. Throughout the country the Whits began to fear that a mistake had been maie, and that the old leaders had been thrown overboard without due thought of the consequences. Mr. Clay's private correspondence exhibited unmistable granification at this aspect of affairs, for he felt assured that the influential Whigs who were now organized against Taylor would have supported him as cordially as they had done in 1844.

POLK DISABLED AS A CANDIDATE.

feated old friends, and the hour of retribution was at hand.

When the delegation of Barnburners withdrew from the Ealtimore Convention of 1948, they were obviously acting in harmony with Mr. Van Buren's wishes. Had they been admitted, according to their peremptory demand, as the sole delegation from New-York, they could have defeated Cass in the convention, and forced the momination of some new man unconnected with the grievances and enuities of 1844. But when the demand of the Barnburners was denied, and they were asked to make common cause with the assassins of Wright, as Jaines S. Wadsworth had denominated the Hunkers, they indignantly shook the dust of the city from oil their feet. adigmantly shook the dust of the city from off their feet eturned to New-York, and forthwith called a Demo ratic convention to meet at Utica on the 22d of June. NOMINATION OF VAN BUREN BY THE FREE-SOIL

PARTY. Before the time arrived for the Utica Convention to assemble, the anti-slavery revolt was widely extended, and was, apparently, no less against Taylor than against Cass. There was agitation in many States, and the Barnburners found that by uniting with the opposition against both the old parties, a most effective combination could be made. It was cerain to profit them in New-York, and it promised the special revenge which they desired in the fefeat of Cass. The various local and State movements

made. It was cerain to profit them in New-York, and it promised the special revenge which they desired in the defeat of Casa. The various local and State movements were merged in one great convention, which met at Haffalo on the 9th of August, with imposing demonstrations. Many of those composing it had held high rank in both the old parties. Saimon P.Chase of Ohlo was selected as president. The convention represence? a genuine anti-slavery sentiment, and annid exolic all and onthusiasm Martin Van Buren was nominated for President, and Charles Francis Adams for Vice-President. The Barnburners, the anti-slavery Whigs, and the old Abolitionists, co-operated with apparent harmony under the general name off the Free-Sol party; and the impression with many when the convention adjourned was, that Mr. Van Buren would have a plurality over both Cass'andgTaylor in the State of New-York. The management of the popular canvass was intrusted to Democratic partisans of the Sitas Wright school, and this foot had a significant and unexpected influence upon the minds of anti-slavery Whigs.

In the first flush of the excitement, the supporters of the regular Democratic nominee were not alarmed. They argued not illogically, that the Free-Soll ticket would draw more largely from the Whigs than from the Democrate, and thus very probably injure Taylor more than Cass. But in a few weeks this hope was dispelled. The Whigs of the country had been engaged for a long period in an earnest political warfare against Mr. Van Buren's anti-slavery conversion. His repentance was late, and even the most charitable suspected that his desire to punish Cass had entered largely from the budge of the South. Mr. Seward, who possessed the unbounded contide co of the anti-slavery men of New-York, led a most engeld successful in findmencing Whigs against Van Buren. In this be was aided by the jorganizing skill of Thurlow Weed, and by the editorial power of Horace Greely. Perhaps in no other National cleation did three men so happer demonstrate can have a

ordality as they had done in 1944.

POLK DISABLED AS A CANDIDATE.
These troubles in the Whig ranks tended, of course, to encourage the Democrata, and to give them for a time great promise of success. The selection of their own eardifate, however, had not been unattended with difficulty and dissension. Mr. Polk was from the first out of the question, —verifying the Scripture that those who draw the sword shall perish by the sword. The war inaugurated by him had been completely successful; "a glorious peace," as it was termed, had been completely successful; "a glorious peace," as it was termed, had been completely successful; "a glorious peace," as it was termed, had been completed accomplished. Yet by common cousent, in which Mr. Polk had gracefully concurred in adversaring the electors of New-York had in which Mr. Polk had gracefully concurred in adversaring the electors of New-York had in which Mr. Polk had gracefully concurred in adversaring the electors of New-York had been enjoying exceedingly good health. — (Palis accordingly good health.

trouble. If I had \$500,000 to invest, I should not heattate to put it all into good whiskey.

W. B. Angle—The plan of exporting and reimporting will work in this way: The storage will cost six or seven dollars a barrel. This money will go into the pockets of foreigners instead of into those of our own people. When the whiskey is reimported, the tax as fixed at the date of reimportation will have to be paid. The Government will practically lose the tax on five gallons in every barrel. There was no reason why Congress should not have passed the bill. The whiskey dealers asked nothing but a temporary favor for which they would have paid interest at 4 per cent. The tax on the bonded whiskey at the end of two years would have amounted to 98 cents a gallon; the storage money would have been cents a gallon; the storage money would have been kept in this country, and the leakage would have been paid according to the law.

THE NEW STEAMSHIP EIDER.

The new steamship Eider, of the North Ger man Lloyd, is due here on Saturday on her first trip from Bremen. She is 455 feet in length, 47 feet beam, 38 feet depth of hold, and of 7,000 tons gross register. She is rigged with four iron masts with yards on the foremast, and is provided with life-boats and rafts, and all other appliances for the safe ty of life at sea. The engines are of the compound three-evlinder type-one high-pressure and two low-pressure--with an estimated power to give an average speed of 17 knots. For the exclusive use of saloon passengers there is a promenade deck 180 feet in length, extending the entire width of the buil. She has accommodations for 150 saloon, 150 intermediate and 1,200 steerage passengers. The first cabin saloon

s amidships, forward of the engines and boilers. The decorations of the saloon, ladles' boilers. The decorations of the saloon, ladles' cabin and smoking room are of the most claborate style, and the joiner work is of black wainst and birds' eye maple. The ladles' cabin, on the promenade deck, is fitted up in eboulzed wood and gold, the easy chairs and divans being upholstered in embossed volvet. The smoking rooms of both first and second cabin passengers are on deck, the former forward and the latter aff.

The steerage is an improvement over the old style and special attention has been given to light and ventilation. The entire interior of the steamer is lighted by electricity.

A WOMAN'S DEFENCE OF HER CHARACTER.

With regard to the will of John G. Bethune, the late manager of "Blind Tom," in which ft is stated that he makes no provision for Mrs. Ellse Stutzbach or Bethune, because she was not his lawful wife, the lady writes to THE TRIBUNE that in his answer to her complaint, asking for a divorce," he admitted the good faith "
of their marriage and stated on oath that he denied its validity "by the advice of counsel." She adds: "That ill-advised answer precluded a reconciliation and forced me to defend the validity of my marriage. I did so in mo to defend the valuaty of my marriage. I did so in silence and I will not new willingly speak in derogation of the dead; but when the living, who have robbed me of the dead, assail the good name which is all that is left to ne, I must defend myself or surrender all before the world."

world."
She declares that she has begun an action against J. She declares that she has begun an action against J. H omer Hildreths her husband's attorney, for a reassign ment of a mortgage for \$3,500, made by Mr. Betume to him. "Two days after this action was begun," she con tinues, "this remarkable paper called my husband's wil was presented for probate by Mr. Hildreth, and the newspaper press appears to have been flooded at the same time with items desired to meet the judicial as well at the public eye, characterizing me as a 'heartless adven turess.'"

HOMING PIGEON NOTES.

Training for this season's homing pigeon races began yesterday with the journey of 104 birds owned in Keyport, N. J., from South River, ten miles distant. Take is at least a month earlier than usual. The entries were: 3. G. Lambertson, 30; W. E. Johnson, 35; J. O. Ward, 20; and E. H. Conover, 19. Half of the birds are winterbred young and will be flown for exercise as far as flig miles, and not trained for distance until July.

The Bridgeport, Conn., club, at its annual meet ing, elected officers: President, C. A. H. Bright; vice-president, Henry Lee; secretary and treasurer, J. E.

Feedy.

The transfer was reported to the secretary of the Federation yesterday of the entire stock of Molatzen imported and Beard birds from the loft of John Brown. Brooklyn, to the lofts of the Messys. Howe and Liddle at Neroten, Conn, and Brooklyn. Another transfer of note was the entire stock of G. W. Patterson, Chloopee Falls, Mass., to the loft of A. P. Clark, Meriden.